GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:667
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2005
ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE TO IRRIGATION THERMAL PROJECTS
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of irrigation and thermal power projects and expansion plan for Visakhapatnam Steel Plant in Andhra Pradesh have been held up due to non-clearance by the Government ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the time since when each of these projects is pending and the cost escalation of these projects; and

(d) the time by which these projects are likely to be cleared ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) Only one irrigation and two thermal power projects from Andhra Pradesh are pending for environmental clearance under the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification 1994.The expansion project of M/s Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. at Visakhapatnam for increasing hot metal production from 4.0 to 6.5 million tonne per annum has already been accorded environmental clearance in August, 2005.

(b) The details of the above pending projects are as follows :-

Irrigation

(i) Chokka Rao Godavari Lift Irrigation Scheme in Warangal District.

Thermal Power Projects

(i) 500 MW Bhoopalapally Power Station near Neredupally, District Warangal by M/s Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corporation Ltd.

(ii) Expansion of Coal Based Captive Power Plant from 50 MW to 114 MW at Paloncha, District Khammam by M/s Nav Bharat Ferro Alloys Ltd.

(c)&(d)While the irrigation project was received in the Ministry in November, 2005, the Thermal Power project proposals were received in May, 2005. The appraisal of the projects for grant of environmental clearance will be completed within the prescribed statutory period of 120 days from the receipt of all the requisite clarifications from the applicants. Therefore the question of cost escalation due to environmental clearance process does not arise.